

From: Gregg Bloom as Colz Grigor
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:03pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello. My name is Gregg Bloom. I am a voting citizen of the United States and a resident of Santa Cruz, California.

I do not find the current proposal between Microsoft and the Department of Justice to be satisfactory. Microsoft has been found guilty of manipulating its monopoly to the detriment of the computer-using community for over a decade. It has had very bad business practices including taking advantage of much smaller companies in order to use the smaller company's superior technology and, in effect, put the smaller company out of business.

I do not think the proposed judgment successfully addresses the companies that are no longer on-going concerns as a result of Microsoft's bad practices.

I believe that the best way to address this issue has several components.

First, I would like to see Microsoft forced to redesign its operating system so that any individual component that has been included with a distribution of Microsoft Operating Systems (95, 98, me, XP, and .net) can be replaced with a third-party's version of software that performs the same function. In order to do this, Microsoft will need to provide detailed specifications for all of its existing and future components of their operating system for a period of time (I believe ten years is satisfactory), and a very easy process for a user of Windows to select the components of the operating system that they would like to interchange with software that they have received from a third party.

Second, I would like a small government agency established. This agency will receive money from Microsoft (a set amount per year for the term of this judgment (ten years at 500 million a year?)) and will fund smaller companies attempting to improve on the individual components of the operating system. This agency will be responsible for evaluating business plans for the proposed improvements, and will be able to withhold payment if it is apparent that the small company is not performing as anticipated.

::Gregg Bloom